which does the pulling—only that it always does the pulling
according to the same laws, whether with big masses or little
ones, whether on earth or in the sun or through the vast
spaces which seem so empty, lying between the world masses
which are scattered through the heavens.
What then is this wondrous *force ?* We do not actually
observe it in the external world at all. What we perceive
is only the following of one event by another. But we
believe that this succession is impossible without an active
conscious *force* behind it. This impels us to see that the
most important principle of physical science, the law of
universal causation, is really the revelation, the mode of
working, of an eternal, unchangeable, self-conscious and
self-determining Spirit in nature which must necessarily
possess intellect and will, intelligence and motive.
Again, the picture which modern Science draws of the
universe is indeed surpassingly sublime. It says that the
universe is filled with force which flows through every atom
of matter, solid, liquid, gaseous, throughout the infinite
area of the boundless whole. The things which naturally
give us the highest conception of force and

majesty are the
grand bodies that march so ceaselessly
through the heavens,
the tidal movements of oceans from end to
end of the globe,
or the fall of huge masses under the power
of gravity; but
all this energy is as nothing in comparison
with that which
is found to lie in the atoms. It is the nature
and force of
the atoms that give its shape to the
crystal, its quality to
the acid or alkali, their colour, odour,
softness or hardness
to substances. It is the atoms that build up
every individual
body from a drop of water to a whirling
sun.
Take the minutest particle of matter which
the eye can
see. That itself is a whole universe of
energy. Within
its bounds, molecules are vibrating,
darting from one side
to another with inconceivable velocity all
the time. And the
like is going on in every particle of matter
from here away